

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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AGRICULTURE

HARRY FARMER'S TALKS. XCVIII.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

December is the month in which we have the least to do on the farm, but the wise farmer will find something to do all the time. Instead of letting his work push him, he pushes his work.

WORK FOR DECEMBER

Now is a nice time to pile leaves and straw for the stalls and pens. Do not confine the pigs on one food, but give them a variety. As this is the month to finish off the pigs for bacon or market, give them all they will eat. Giving them half feed is poor economy. It would be better if the amount necessary to make a given weight could be consumed in half the time. If it takes four days for a pig to eat three pecks of corn, there would be time and risk saved to get him to eat it in two days.

Gather and haul a plenty of good wood now, so that during the holidays you can have a little more leisure.

GROWING IRISH POTATOES CHEAPLY.

We tried planting Irish potatoes after the Allen plan, which we mentioned last year, and it proved all right. For the benefit of those who did not read the article or who may have forgotten it, we will give the plan again. Take the small potatoes as soon as they are dug and drop them in a furrow and cover about 1½ or 2 inches deep. Then sow or plant early cowpeas on the land. Just as soon as the pods begin to turn yellow, mow for hay. By this time the potatoes will be up sufficiently to locate the rows; then work them out. It would be best to run a small furrow near the plants and sow some guano that contained a large per cent of potash in the furrow; this would insure a good crop of tubers. The peas shade the land and give the young potatoes a chance to get a good start.

GROW GRAPES ON EVERY FARM.

We have just finished eating our Flowers grapes. They remained on the vines as late as November 15th. We ought to be satisfied, for we have had a supply since the 4th of July. It will not take one day's work a year to give all the attention that is necessary to furnish a large family all the grapes that they can consume, not to include what is used for wine. Mary Jane always cans

a lot of grapes, so that practically we have them the whole year. It is so easy to raise them we are surprised that more people do not raise grapes. We notice that they are advertised in The Progressive Farmer. People who consume large quantities of fruits are generally free from diseases like rheumatism, kidney troubles, etc.

Just think what a warm fall we are having! At this writing (Nov. 26th) we have green tomatoes in the garden, and gourd vines, as tender as they are, still green!

HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

The Oleo Fraud Dies Hard.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The prediction at Washington is that the government will have the greatest fight on its hands in the history of the present generation by its attempts to enforce the oleomargarine law. The oleo makers are using every endeavor to outwit the law and its intention. The law states nothing about the use of colored butter in the composition of oleo—in fact, butter is generally used—and the oleomargarine makers are now attempting to use colored butter, having a very high content of artificial coloring matter, in the composition of their product. The Treasury Department, however, has set a standard of the amount of coloring matter generally used in butter; and if the oleo contains more than this amount, it holds the mixture to be liable to the ten-cents-a-pound tax. M.

Washington, D. C.

The Department of Agriculture has received advices of excellent crops this year in Alaska. It seems hard to realize, as one Department official says, that Alaska has a great agricultural future. The Department intends to establish another experiment station in the Copper River country and already two of its agents are on the ground selecting a site.

Stanly Enterprise: The beautiful weather of the past few weeks has been a blessing to our farmers. It has given them an opportunity to sow their small grain, and in addition to this almost a full crop of cotton will be made, where only a half or slightly more would have resulted had cold weather set in earlier.

A TOBACCO GROWERS' TRUST.

Dr. Freeman Outlines a Plan for the Consideration of the Tobacco Convention to be Held this Month.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

In view of the fact that there is to be a tobacco growers' meeting some time in next month in Raleigh [or Rocky Mount], I have written a few suggestions which I hope you will publish at once, that a discussion may be had and that much good may come of it. No use to meet and resolute, but meet and do something. This plan should put every farmer into the tobacco trust (and cotton, too, as to that), and plenty of money into the treasury to make things go, and no one ever miss it. I believe, by an iron-clad organization of this kind, the farmers can be held together and prices of our tobacco and other raw material controlled. Thus we will be able to make terms with the money trust. All our agents should be well paid, and the best men put in the field. I hope to go to the meeting in Raleigh if I can find out when it is. I don't see any notice of it in The Farmer. H. F. F.

AN OUTLINE SKETCH OF THE COMBINE

A board of directors composed of one member from each county of the tobacco-growing counties.

This board of directors to be appointed by the North Carolina Tobacco Growers' Association, which meets in December. This board to organize the tobacco-growing farmers in each county into sub-organizations at every school-house in their counties.

There shall be also a general agent and sub-county agents appointed, something on the order of the insurance companies. These directors shall have power to appoint agents and organize and direct the trust as best they can for the best interest of the tobacco-growers of the State and to encourage other States to organize and co-operate with the trust of this State.

The sub-agents of each county shall organize clubs at school-houses and co-operate with the Alliance when possible. The agents shall take an itemized account of each member's crop as to acres to be planted and amount of guano per acre to be used, etc.

The towns where tobacco sales are held shall also be organized and all

warehouses asked to join the trust, and every man who deals in or buys tobacco or handles or is interested in it in any way, may become members. All men and warehouses that do not become members are to be boycotted by this farmers' trust.

The board of directors shall fix the minimum price of all grades of tobacco, and the warehouseman shall start his sales at or above this fixed price. All the trust sales-houses shall have an alphabetical list of the trust farmers; and when his tobacco is weighed, the word "trust" shall be written by his name on his tag, thus the warehouseman knowing the trust price, and will offer the tobacco at or above that price.

This trust should be organized this winter and the agents put into each district at once. By the middle of June, 1903, this association should have another meeting and all the farmers meet and hear the full report of the board of directors. By this time every tobacco-grower should be a member of the trust, and the board should be able to report the exact number of acres in cultivation and the amount of guano used on the crop; also the number of pounds of tobacco that will be sold next fall and winter.

Now, in order to make this thing go, there must be some money; so each farmer who joins the trust must pay so much for each acre he is going to plant—say 50 cents or \$1, as the directors see fit. The dealers, pinhookers, etc., should pay from \$5 to \$10, and warehouses from \$50 to \$500. There should be put into the treasury plenty of money to make the trust a success. The State agent should be paid \$2,000 to \$3,000 salary, and the county agents from \$800 to \$1,200 per year. These county agents must give all their time to the work, and go from house to house and get every farmer who grows one acre and more of tobacco to join the trust. These men, above all else, should be the very best business men to be had.

There are many details in connection with this plan that I might discuss here, but I send the above suggestions now, so others may discuss them through your paper and the press generally, and I am sure a good plan of organization can be had by which we can fix the price of our tobacco.

The price of cotton can be controlled the same way.

H. F. FREEMAN, M. D.,
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